

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Wa 99362-1876

Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/invironmental Impact Statement

Questions and Statements:

We now have 150 million tons of sediment deposited behind the dams, and are accumulating 4 million tons a year. By the time the dams are removed there will be over 200 million tons. Page 5.3-4 states 50% may wash out in the first 3 years. That means the river will be carrying 10 times as much mud as historically, before dams. Is there a fisheries biologist who believes any fish will survive during this 3 year mud flow? When the river clears, will we then artificially reintroduce salmon?

The Tucannon river will have about a 30 foot waterfall at the mouth due to sediment deposits. Will we sacrifice the salmon run on this river?

The Corps of Engineers have constructed many dams through-out the United States. Is there any instance where recreational use of the waterway did not increase after the dam was installed? Why does the Corps believe recreation will increase with dam removal? There was no recreation vessels on this stretch of the Snake River before dam construction.

Page 3-12 you mention shifting highways and railroads. How long will we be without rail service or highway use? Who pays to replace damaged roads, bridges, highways, and other unforeseen damage?

One item not mentioned in your draft was floods. I realize these are not flood control dams, but before the dams existed we figured it took 12 hours for a raise to travel from Lewiston to Pasco. Now it takes 4 days. To river users, this four day delay is a form of flood control.

Chapter 5 of the Corps of Engineers draft has so many conjectures such as "it my still be", "Path results are dependent on assumptions", "it may be caused", "may be lower", "could be", "four assumptions used", "four sets of assumptions considered", "would likely be", "mortality hypothesis", "it may", "it is unknown", "Path analyses indicate", "dependent on assumption", etc.

We have too many unknowns, we are making too many guesses to consider moving ahead on dam removal. I suggest alternative 4 be removed from further consideration.

I recommend alternative alternative 2 because we know it works. Voluntary spill has

always looked foolish. As soon as the spill gates open at six p.m., the sea gulls and crows are there getting there fill, as well as the under water predators. The ride over the spill way stuns the fingerlings, making them temporarily vulnerable. Also the returning adults are confused by the spills and have difficulty finding the fish ladder. When the river runs through the turbines, the returning adults swim directly to the fish ladders. To the observer, it is very obvious spill kill both the downbound fingerlings as well as the returning adults. The barge transportation program has proven to be a phenomenal success story.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Bernert".

Bob Bernert

Bernert Barge Lines

The United States may soon donate the largest single contribution ever to World Hunger and Global Warming by destroying four Snake River Dams!

To contribute to Global Warming we will burn an additional 1.8 billion gallons of fossil fuel each year to replace the 4 million horse power now produced by the emission free, environmentally friendly dams.

For the worlds hungry we will remove 35,000 acres from irrigation and destroy the Snake River Navigation System, our highway to the export market, presently moving 3 million tons of food products per year to the worlds hungry. Instead of only 19,000 children dying around the world each day from malnutrition, as is happening today, we can double that number.

Note:

1 gal of diesel fuel will produce 20 hp. for one hour

Carbon Dioxide has increased 18% in our atmosphere since 1900.

Fossil fuel combustion creates 66% of the worlds carbon dioxide.

The 1990's was the warmest decade on record.

Oil consumption has increased 30% world wide in the last ten years.

three million tons of food will supply 3 million families one ton per year.

one third of the worlds harvest is grown on irrigated land

75% of water used on this planet is used for irrigation.

The lowest annual count of returning adult salmon at Bonneville was 1944 at 361,516.

The highest annual count of returning adult salmon at Bonneville was 1986 at 1,139,848

The ten year average count at Bonneville, 1938-1947 was 570,468 salmon

The ten year average count at Bonneville, 1984-1993 was 818,737 salmon

The lowest count at Lower Granite was in 1979 at 37,777 salmon

The highest count at Lower Granite was 1986-1993, 177,558 ten years after smolt barging introduced.

West Coast Salmon Harvest in 1905 was 50,000,000 fish.

West Coast Salmon Harvest in 1913 was 100,000,000 fish.

West Coast Salmon Harvest in 1984 was 150,000,000 fish

West Coast Salmon Harvest in 1990 was 240,000,000 fish, a 70% increase in six years!

45% of the salmon harvested off British Columbia and SE Alaska originate in the Columbia Basin.

One ton of commodities can move 514 miles by Barge on one gallon of fuel.

One ton of commodities can move 202 miles by train on one gallon of fuel.

One ton of commodities can move 59 miles by truck on one gallon of fuel.

The U.S. rivers are open highways, any U.S. citizen can start a towboat company.

The above information compiled by Bernert Barge Lines.